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Cornea, External Diseases, Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
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June 15, 2012

Cornea Transplant List Patient

RE: Wait times and acquisition of tissue

Dear patient,

I am writing today to ask you to join me in advocating for cornea transplantation patients in Alberta. Presently, corneas for transplantation are obtained by donation in Canada and the demand far exceeds the supply. This is why many patients are waiting for corneas for 3 years or more. It is heartbreaking to watch people lose their livelihoods and independence when a cornea transplant could prevent this.

I have become aware of the opportunity for our government to obtain excess corneas from various eye banks in the United States. If you share my view and would like to encourage the government to increase the availability of corneas, I would encourage you to sign the enclosed letter, or write one of your own, and send it to your MLA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Climenhaga', with a small 'for' written to the right.

Dr. David B. Climenhaga

B.MSc., M.D., F.R.S.C., Diplomate American Board of Ophthalmology

June 15, 2012

Mr. Peter Sandhu  
Constituency Office  
5523 - 137 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
Canada T5A 3L4  
Phone: (780) 414-0714  
Fax: (780) 414-0716

RE: Cornea Transplant Waitlist in Alberta

Dear Mr. Peter Sandhu:

I have a visual handicap due to a disease of the cornea. My vision and quality of life have decreased as this disease has progressed. I am on a waitlist for a cornea transplant; a wait that may be up to 3 years due to the lack of available tissue. There is tissue available from various eye banks in the United States that can be obtained by the government. How long will you have me wait for sight when there is tissue readily available? It alarms me to know that our government is willing to fund elective gender reassignment surgeries and will not fund the acquisition of tissue that will restore my sight. I believe that this funding, and the political priorities of this government, should be strongly reconsidered.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Roderick Bennett